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to talk of the fineness of the old-time Negro who was illiterate. He, and the paternalistic conditions which created him, are gone forever. We must train our present Negroes through the churches and the schools because we have nothing else through which to train them." "In the fundamental sense we can no more make a bi-racial division of our civilization than we can make a bi-racial division of the sunshine, the rain, the returning seasons."

Incapacity must not rule or ruin capacity. The violent reaction against the postbellum situation was based on the fear of this. But the policy of evasion turns back on those who employ it. We cannot have one law for the Negro, another for the white without breaking down all law. "If it is hard to convict a white man of the murder of a Negro, it soon becomes equally hard to convict him of the murder of a white man." In the long run repression of the Negro is impossible—his development must be furthered, not hindered. The time has come for constructive policies.

The Negro race is developing; is finding itself; is becoming self-conscious, self-centered. This integrating force will interest American Negroes in Africa, will open opportunities for large service. So long as despair rules there is little progress. Let hope enter and the race moves forward. To give the Negro great responsibility for his own progress is to steady him.

The strong man, the strong race, is burdened by the weak. Lack of homogeneous population cripples our social institutions. In the South only too often has the local situation caused an eclipse of national policies and interests.

In no uncertain terms are the reconstruction policies condemned—and justly. In this most northern students concur. But the new coercion—the reaction of the South against the Negro is equally unfortunate. Social, race integrity is not threatened by recognition of the civil, political and industrial rights of the Negroes. "No true freedom can retard our freedom." The better spirit of the South must respond to the new situation.

The last chapter, "Ascendancy," is a manly, noble appeal to the South to see the difficulty of to-day in order to realize the hope of to-morrow.

Seldom has it fallen to the reviewer's lot to read pages more accurate in presentation of existing problems; more suggestive of the power of man to surmount his obstacles; or evidencing greater faith in humanity. I can hardly commend the book too highly.

CARL KELSEY.

University of Pennsylvania.

Plehn, Carl C. *Introduction to Public Finance.* Pp. xv, 480. Price, \$1.75.

New York: Macmillan Company, 1909.

This book, which now appears in its third and revised edition, should prove useful as a description of the field of public finance and as a compendium of the recognized writers on public finance, yet there is scarcely a chapter which does not contain statements which invite challenge. The book is arranged in the usual conventional order of expenditure, revenue, debt and

administration, although no convincing argument is adduced for the treatment of expenditure in advance of revenue in public economy any more than in private economy. Dr. Plehn is strong in his characterizations of existing methods and practice, but narrow in many of his definitions and classifications. For example, he rejects altogether the distinction between special assessments and fees, even while admitting their striking differences. In another place he concludes that "faculty is the ideal basis of taxation" and may "best be measured by income," yet his advocacy of a multiplex tax system indicates his refusal to accept this "ideal." Again, he brashly calls to witness "the wholesale plunder of the United States treasury for pensions," which would hardly be proper in a text-book, even if true. Dr. Plehn also lets his bias against the protective tariff lead him into several questionable assertions. He has, none the less, condensed an immense amount of valuable information into small compass, and his systematic presentation affords a survey sufficiently thorough to justify it as "an introduction" to the study of public finance.

VICTOR ROSEWATER.

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Powell, E. T. *The Essentials of Self-Government.* Pp. vii, 309. Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

Efficient laws to control the choice of the legislature are one of the bases of good constitutional government. The subject treated, the English electoral system is, therefore, one which must interest a large public, especially as English practice has often been pointed to as exemplary. Mr. Powell's excellent analysis and well-thought-out suggestions of reform make this book of great value to all those interested in popular government. The material is about evenly divided between exposition of present conditions and the outline of changes which should be introduced. The latter are so great in number and important that the pros and cons often cannot be discussed in detail, but the critical attitude adopted toward each subject always gives the discussion fairness, even though it is not exhaustive.

The first fifty pages discuss the problem of registration. Annual registers kept by public officials who are to be responsible for omissions should be provided. The tax collectors should aid to see that none escape registration. The author clearly puts too much confidence in the system of practically enforced registration which he outlines. Experiments used elsewhere to force the citizen out of his political indifference have been uniform failures. He also advocates a shorter registration period; just the opposite of what is now thought best by most writers in this country.

The second division treats apportionment and nomination systems. It is by all means the best part of the book. The discussion of present inequalities of representation is excellent. Numerous tables are given to show the shift of population which has made the value of a vote in some districts when compared with others stand as one to eighteen. Reapportionment should be on the basis of electoral strength, not on population, and